<div align="center">REMARKS/ARGUMENTS</div>

Claims 9 and 11-13 are active in this application, Claims 1-8 and 10 having been canceled. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 10 limited to the structural unit (b) represented by formula (1-2). Further, Claim 11 has been amended to remove formula (2-1) and delete the phrase "B^1 to B^4 comprise an alkylene group formed from B^1 and B^3, or B^2 and B^4. These amendments are supported by the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

The present invention relates to a method for treatment of a film or heat comprising bringing a film or sheet containing a cyclic olefin based polymer into contact with a gas comprising a superheated water vapor. In particular, the cyclic olefin based polymer is required to be a cyclic olefin based polymer comprising a structural unit having the formula (1-2). Applicants have found that treatment as specified in the claims of the claimed polymers provides a film or sheet having a low amount of residual solvent and excellent dimensional stability.

The objection to Claim 11 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), and the rejection of Claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph have be obviated by the present amendments. Further, Applicants note that the phrase "A^1 and A^2, A^1 and A^3 or A^2 and A^4 can join to form an alkylene group" indicates that the recited pairs of substituents can be joined together as an alkylene group connecting the two location so the substituient. Those of ordinary skill in the art understand such language and it should not be confusing or vague.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Oshima et al. Oshima et al. disclosed various cyclic olefin addition copolymers containing recurring units of formulas (1) and (2).

(1)

(2)
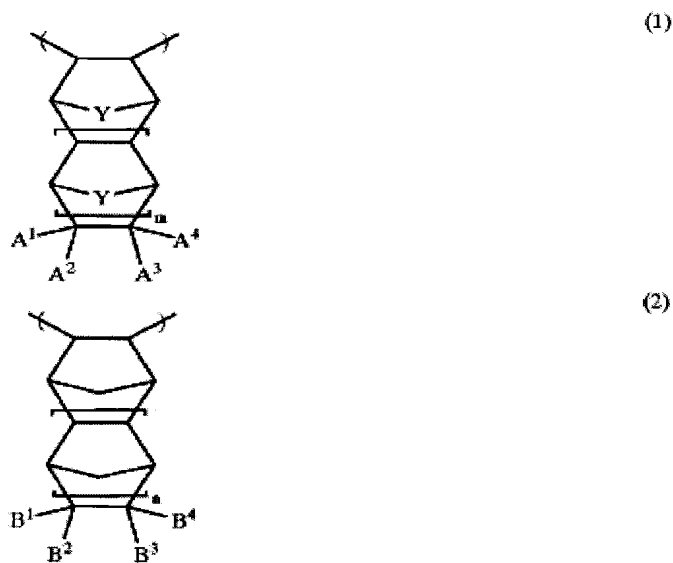
However, there is nothing within <u>Oshima et al.</u> to disclose or suggest polymers as required in the present claims having formula (1-2) or formula (2-2).

(1-2)

(2-2)
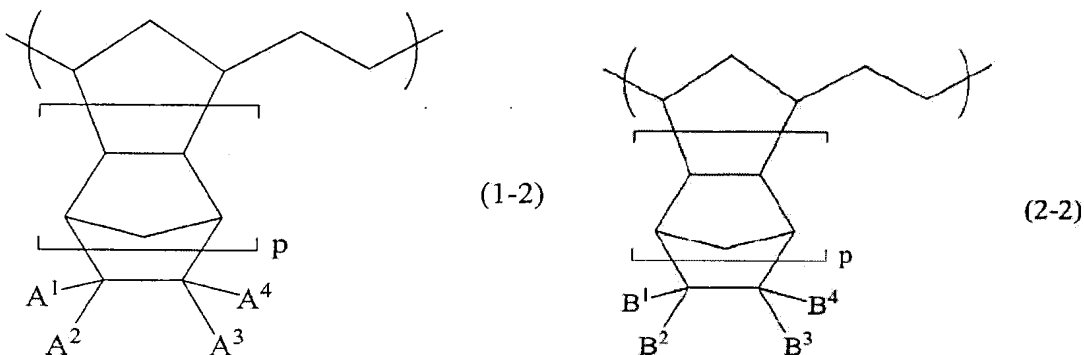
Further, there is nothing within <u>Oshima</u> to suggest such polymers or their preparation. Further, there is no disclosure within <u>Oshima</u> of a method for treating a film or sheet of such a polymer by bringing that film or sheet into contact with a gas comprising a superheated water vapor. The Examiner's reliance upon the teaching of example 2 cannot be maintained, as Example 2 of <u>Ohshima</u> neither discloses nor suggests the treatment of a film or sheet made of the <u>present claimed polymer</u> and in fact only relates to a polymer having units of formulas (1) or (2) of <u>Oshima's</u> disclosure. Accordingly, <u>Oshima et al.</u> provides no teaching on how to

make such a polymer nor any teaching on how to treat such a polymer by contacting it with a

gas comprising superheated water vapor. Additionally, there is no suggestion that by doing

so one can obtain reduced residual solvent and excellent dimensional stability as found in

using the method of the present invention. Accordingly, <u>Oshima et al.</u> cannot anticipate the

present invention and cannot render the present invention obvious. Therefore, the rejection

should be withdrawn.

Applicant submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, an early

notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

J. Derek Mason, Ph.D.
Registration No. 35,270

7